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## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

New claims 10-65 also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

The amendments here presented are made for the purposes of better defining the invention, rather than to overcome the rejections for patentability. Support for the amendments herein presented can be found in the specification and claims as filed. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

## The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over Shoam (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,989 B1) in view of Ausubel (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,975). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-9 have been canceled, thus the rejection is now moot.

The new claims are patentably distinct over the prior art.

## Prior Art Made of Record

The Office Action cited prior art of record but did not rely upon the prior art.

Applicants have considered the prior art made of record and assert that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over prior art made of record.

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## Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

> Respectfully submitted, Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.

Dated: February 4, 2003

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